

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 220440Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO USDA/FAS/WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5978

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 5326

ATTN: AGRICULTURE - FAS/SPECIAL PROJECTS DIVISION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH RIKSDAG'S PROPOSAL RE PESTICIDE RESIDUE CONTROLS  
ON IMPORTED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

REF: SW-5021, SW-5022, FASTO 101, TOFAS 211, TOFAS 128, STATE  
228928 AND STATE 242031

1. MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE SVANTE LUNDKVIST AND  
IMPORTERS ASSOCIATION TOOK PLACE AS SCHEDULED ON OCTOBER 10.  
INFORMATION SUPPLIED IN STATE 242031 WAS MUCH APPRECIATED.

2. ACCORDING TO A MEMBER OF IMPORTER TEAM THE MEETING WAS  
SATISFACTORY AND IMPORTERS LEFT MEETING FEELING SLIGHTLY  
OPTIMISTIC THOUGH STILL QUITE CONCERNED. MINISTER LUNDKVIST  
GAVE THEM THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS NOT MUCH IN SYMPATHY WITH  
THE PARLIAMENTARY ACTION AND THAT HE HOPED TO SEE THAT THE  
IMPLEMENTING ACTION WAS CARRIED OUT IN SUCH A MANNER THAT IT  
WOULD NOT SERIOUSLY DAMAGE IMPORT TRADE. THE MINISTER PLANNED  
SHORTLY AFTER THE MEETING TO REFER THE MATTER TO THE NATIONAL  
FOOD ADMINISTRATION FOR STUDY AND RECOMMENDATION.

3. THE IMPORTERS, IN THEIR PRESENTATION STRESSED FOLLOWING  
POINTS AMONG OTHERS (1) THEY HAD BEEN INFORMED BY  
GOVERNMENTS OF FRANCE, ITALY, SPAIN, NETHERLANDS, USA,  
SOUTH AFRICA, AND ISRAEL THAT THEY HAD NO FACILITIES TO  
MAKE TESTS AND ISSUE CERTIFICATES SUCH AS THE PARLIAMEN-  
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TARY RESOLUTION SUGGESTED (2) THE IMPORTERS ASSOCIATION

UNDERSTOOD THAT SUPPLYING COUNTRIES WOULD FIND IT PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE RESIDUE TESTS QUICKLY ENOUGH TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY RESOLUTION AND STILL NOT SERIOUSLY IMPAIR FOREIGN TRADE.

4. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING, AGREED THAT THE MEETING WAS CORDIAL AND SAID THAT THE MINISTER HAD ASSURED THE IMPORTERS THAT THE INVESTIGATION BY THE FOOD ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE CAREFUL AND THOROUGH. FURTHERMORE, THE MINISTER ASSURED HIM THAT ANY ACTION WHICH MIGHT BE PROPOSED WOULD FIRST BE BROUGHT BACK TO THE IMPORTERS. THERE WOULD BE NO SURPRISES HE SAID.

5. THIS SPOKESMAN INDICATED TO EMBASSY OFFICER THAT INVESTIGATION MIGHT WELL TAKE MORE THAN A YEAR. BY THAT TIME THERE WILL BE A NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION IN SWEDEN. OUTCOME OF THAT ELECTION WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY INFLUENCE SUBSEQUENT ACTION ON THIS QUESTION.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY FORSEES NO PRECIPITOUS GOS ACTIONS ON THIS PROBLEM BUT OVER LONGER TERM WE ANTICIPATE THAT GOS WILL EITHER INTENSIFY TESTING OF IMPORTED PRODUCE AFTER ARRIVAL OR IMPOSE MORE STRINGENT CONTROLS ON FOREIGN SUPPLIERS OR BOTH. ELEMENT OF PARTISAN POLITICS INVOLVED MAKES PREDICTION SPECIALLY DIFFICULT. EMBASSY HAS FORWARDED SELECTED PARTS OF MESSAGE IN STATE 242031 AND 228928 TO PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS SUBJECT IN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. COPY BEING POUCHED.  
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## Message Attributes

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